VIII

ANNUAL REPORT

EMIGRATION FROM THE PORT OF CALCUTTA

BRITISH AND FOREIGN COLONIES

1877-78.

BY

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Officiating Protector of Emigrants.

Calcutta:

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No. 886, dated Calcutta, the 22nd July 1878.

From—Dr. V. Richards, Officiating Protector of Emigrants.
To—The Officiating Under-Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal, General Department.

I have the honor to submit, for the information of Government, the annual report on emigration from Calcutta to the several British and Foreign Colonies for the year ending 31st March 1878.

After Dr. Grant's departure for England, on 19th April 1877, on two years' leave, Dr. C. H. Joubert, Mr. M. Power, and Major R. Beadon, officiated as Protector of Emigrants on various occasions until the 16th March, when I assumed charge.

2. *Medical Inspector of Emigrants.*—This office was held throughout the year by Dr. J. G. French.

3. *Office and establishment.*—The office was removed from No. 1, Jaun Bazar Street, to a more central position, No. 9, Short Street, on the 1st July 1877. There was no change or addition in the nominal roll of the office establishment during the year. A considerable increase in the correspondence has to be noted, both as regards the number of letters received and despatched, as is shewn in the following table:—

	1876-76.	1876-77.	1877-78.
Number of letters received ...	2,586	2,582	3,653
Ditto ditto despatched ...	1,675	1,571	2,217
Total ...	4,261	4,153	5,870

4. *Emigration Act and Rules.*—No change in Act VII of 1871 was effected during the year, but rules 23 and 29 were altered, and rules 23*a* and 23*b* and 29*a* and 29*b* were added. Rule 23, which regulates the proportion of female to male emigrants proceeding to the colonies during the monsoon months, was relaxed for the season of 1877-78.

5. *Emigration Agencies.*—The following table affords information regarding the agencies concerned in emigration operations during the year under review:—

Colonies.	Agencies.	Emigration Agent.	Date of approval of appointment.	Situation of depôts.
Mauritius	British ...	Mr. C. Eales	21st July 1863	Bhowanipore, near Tolly's Nullah.
Demerara	Ditto ...	Mr. H. A. Firth	19th February 1872 ...	No. 8, Garden Reach.
Natal	Ditto ...	Ditto	31st January 1874 ...	No. 8, ditto.
Trinidad	Ditto ...	Mr. R. W. S. Mitchell ...	6th June 1874	No. 9, ditto.
Jamaica	Ditto ...	Ditto Officiating ...	26th March 1877	No. 76, ditto.
Grenada	Ditto ...	Ditto	27th November 1877 ...	No. 9, ditto.
St. Lucia	Ditto ...	Ditto	24th December 1877 ...	No. 9, ditto.
Surinam	Dutch ...	Mr. E. C. Van Cutsem ...	27th April 1876	No 20, ditto.
Guadeloupe	French ...	„ F. Charriol	10th October 1876... ...	No. 5, Meetapooker Lane.

It will be observed that there were nine agencies at work, seven of which, conducted by Messrs. Eales, Firth, and Mitchell, are British; one Dutch, in charge of Mr. E. Van Cutsem; and one French, conducted by Mr. F. Charriol until January 1878, from which time Mr. Quillett was appointed to act subject to approval. Three more agencies, namely, those of Jamaica, Grenada, and St. Lucia, were at work during 1877-78 than in the previous year. Mr. Firth returned from leave on the 1st October 1877.

6. *Depôts.*—My predecessors appear to have been perfectly satisfied with the internal administration of the depôts under the charge of the above-mentioned gentlemen, and although my experience has been of very short duration, I am able to bear testimony to the cordial co-operation afforded by the agents, not only in reference to the management of the depôts, but in the detection and rectification of abuses on the part of their recruiters and other employés.

The following table exhibits the number of emigrants accommodated in the depôts and the mortality during the past year as compared with the figures under the same heads in the previous year:—

Depôts.	1876-77.			1877-78.		
	Number admitted into depôts.	Number of deaths.	Percentage of deaths.	Number admitted into depôts.	Number of deaths.	Percentage of deaths.
Mauritius	1,276	12	·94	3,044	41	1·34
Demerara	4,746	18	·37	9,668	60	0·62
Natal	796	...	.....	1,315	2	0·15
Trinidad	2,160	10	·46	2,821	6	0·21
Jamaica	.....	.....	.. ..	1,156	9	0 77
Grenada	.....	.....	.....	579	...	0 00
St Lucia	.....	.....	.....	724	5	0 69
Surinam	Recruited coolies, but had not forwarded them.			504	1	0·19
Guadeloupe	441	.....	...	2,733	44	1 60
Total ...	9,417	40	42	22,544	168	0·74

There has been a remarkable increase in the number of admissions into the depôts during the year under review (22,544) as compared with that of the year before (9,417); and although four additional agencies were conducting emigration operations, the number received by them collectively (2,963) does not altogether account for this augmentation in the total admissions, since it occurred in every depôt, and notably in that of Guadeloupe, where it was six-fold. The largest comparative increase was in the Guadeloupe depôt and the smallest in the Trinidad depôt, though the largest actual increase was in the Demerara depôt, where the number rose from 4,746 to 9,668.

The mortality amongst the emigrants, while detained in the depôts, was again higher during the year under review than in the previous year, being 0·74 per cent. against 0·42 per cent. This is due to the very high rate of mortality which obtained in the Mauritius and French depôts, in the former of which it was 1·34 per cent. during an average detention in depôt of 36 days. Bearing in mind the number of days the intending emigrants were detained in the depôts, the death-rate was certainly abnormally high in five depôts—viz. Mauritius, where it was at the rate of 160 per thousand per annum; Demerara, 124 per thousand for the same period; the French, 160 per thousand; the St. Lucia, 144 per thousand; and the Jamaica, 77 per thousand. In the Trinidad depôt it was exceedingly low, being only 27 per thousand, though 2,821 emigrants passed through the depôt. It is to be observed that the Mauritius depôt always stands first or second in the mortality list, which may partly be due to the fact that one of the chief fields of recruitment for that colony is Behar, where the classes who resort to emigration are generally the least adapted for the purpose, being sickly, and I may add, as far as my experience of them goes, often capricious and discontented. Comparing the death-rate in all the depôts—0·74 per cent.—with the average number of days' detention (25), we have a death-rate of 11·10 per cent. = 111 per thousand, a high death-rate; but it should be borne in mind that many of the emigrants are admitted into the depôts in a very anæmic, ill fed condition, and are detained in the hope and belief that they will improve before the time arrives for embarkation. The majority do improve wonderfully under good care and treatment, but not a few die, and it is these people who abnormally increase the mortality rate. It is a mistake, I think, to speak of these emigrants as "a selected class," since the selection is dependent on such qualifying conditions that it is not unfrequently inoperative. Again, the Emigration Agents select from amongst the healthiest and strongest men they can obtain, but the standard may be good or indifferent, according to the antecedent

circumstances of the individuals—the selection is, therefore, but limited. Moreover, a very large proportion of the deaths were those of children and infants, amongst whom the death-rate has been excessively high during the past year.

The following table gives the particulars regarding the mortality amongst men, women, children, and infants:—

Colonies.	Male.	Female.	Children.		Infants.		Total.
			Boys.	Girls.	Boys.	Girls.	
Mauritius	14	6	10	3	4	4	41
Demerara	8	3	11	6	15	17	60
Natal	.....	1	.....	.....	1	.....	2
Trinidad	1	1	1	1	2	.....	6
Jamaica	2	2	1	.....	2	2	9
Grenada	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
St. Lucia	1	.....	1	.....	.....	3	5
Surinam	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	1
Guadeloupe	7	13	4	8	6	6	44
Total	33	26	28	18	31	32	168

It will be observed that of the 168 deaths, no fewer than 109 (65 *per cent.*) were those of children and infants, and only 59·35 *per cent.*) those of adults the total death-rate is therefore—

Amongst the men admitted into depôts 0·25 per cent.
" women " " 0·48 "
" children " " 1·68 "
" infants " " 3·77 "

The death-rate amongst infants in the French depôt was terribly high, being 10 per cent. in an average of only 36 days' detention. Here, again, as in the case of the Mauritius depôt only to a greater extent, owing to the comparatively larger proportion of Beharis, it is observable that a high rate of mortality and a relatively large Behari population are coincident. It is, perhaps, desirable to note that the Surinam depôt was an exception to the rule; but the total number of admissions into that depôt during this year was small, being only 504, about one-third of whom were Beharis.

Although no epidemic prevailed in any depôt, both small-pox and cholera occurred in some of the depôts, and in a measure account for the high rate of mortality. The following table furnishes information regarding the causes of death:—

Depôts.	Diarrhœa.	Dysentery.	Cholera.	Fever.	Chicken-pox.	Small-pox.	Chest affection.	Measles.	Other diseases.	Total
Mauritius	16	3	7	4	.....	.....	4	.....	7	41
Demerara	9	6	6	6	.....	11	7	.....	15	60
Trinidad	.....	1	3	.....	.....	1	1	.....	.....	6
Jamaica	.....	3	1	.....	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	9
Grenada	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
St. Lucia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5	.....	.....	.....	5
Natal	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	2
Surinam	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	1
Guadeloupe	8	3	18	4	.....	1	4	.....	5	43
Total	34	16	35	14	.....	18	21	.....	29	.....

It will be seen that, while death is attributed to cholera in 35 instances, diarrhœa accounts for 34 deaths, other diseases for 29, chest affections for 21, small-pox for 18, dysentery 16, and fever 14. While diarrhœa was most prevalent in the Mauritius depôt, cholera was most prevalent in the French depôt, and small-pox and "other diseases" in the Demerara depôt.

Medical examination of intending emigrants in the district where recruited not being compulsory, as under Act VII of 1873, it necessarily follows that a large number, after undergoing medical examination on arrival at the depôts, are found to be physically unfit. Hence, also, the large number of deaths from such diseases as those which affect the chest and those which are included under the comprehensive head of "other diseases."

7. *Detention in Depôt.*—The following table shows the period of detention of emigrants during the year under consideration :—

Depôts.	Maximum.	Minimum.	Average.	Remarks.
Mauritius	187	1	30	On account of venereal disease.
Demerara	99	1	18	Owing to granular ophthalmia.
Trinidad	146	1	27	
Jamaica	84	20	37	
Grenada	21	6	9	
St. Lucia	49	4	21	
Natal	44	14	19	
Surinam	103	17	47	
Guadeloupe	146	1	36	This was the case of a woman who was confined in the depôt, and unable to embark till the departure of the fourth ship in December.

The provisions of Rule 17 have not been carried out better during the year under review than in the previous year; for, although the average duration of detention has been 25 days against 29·2 in 1876-77, the prescribed period has been exceeded on three occasions against one in the previous year. The causes of exceptionally long detentions are noted in the column of remarks; and it will be noted that they were principally attributed to the occurrence of disease amongst the intending emigrants, except in the case of the detentions in the Surinam depôt, which were occasioned by the non-arrival at the port of the steamer that had been engaged for the conveyance of the emigrants until long after the first batch had been admitted into the depôt.

8. *Recruitment.*—The following table shows the number and percentage of licenses granted and cancelled during the past three years :—

Recruiting Agencies.	Licenses.								
	Granted.			Cancelled.					
				1875-76.		1876-77.		1877-78.	
	1875-76.	1876-77.	1877-78.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.	Number.	Percentage.
Mauritius	1	15	33	1	100	1	6·66	4	12·12
Demerara	133	120	113	9	6·76	5	3·87	5	4·42
Trinidad	50	56	92	4	8	5	8·92	6	6·45
Jamaica	25	.....	35	2	8	.....	.....	.....	.....
Grenada	.....	.....	13	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
St. Lucia	.. ...		13	.....	.....	.....	.....	... ..	.....
Natal	47	60	5	1	2·12	.....	.....	.....	.....
Surinam	.....	10	16	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Guadeloupe	70	36	55	4	5·71	1	2·77	1	1·81
Total ...	326	306	375	21	6·44	12	3·92	16	4·26

From the above it will be remarked that, although the number of intending emigrants rose from 9,417 in 1876-77 to 22,544 in 1877-78, only 69 additional recruiters' licenses were granted. It must be explained, however, that in several instances licenses were granted at the latter end of the official year 1876-77, so that they continued in force throughout the recruiting season of 1877-78. Consequently, although only 375 licenses were granted in 1877-78, there were 461 licensed recruiters at work during the year, no fewer than 86 recruiters' licenses granted in 1876-77 having continued in force during the year under review.

The following statement exhibits the total number of persons said to have been registered on behalf of each agency, the number of recruiters working during the season, and the average number of individuals recruited by each recruiter :—

Agencies.	Number said to have been registered.	Number of recruiters working during the season.	Average number recruited by each recruiter.	Remarks.
Mauritius	3,128	37	84	Many of these recruiters worked only a few months in the year.
Demerara	10,236	121	84	
Natal	1,347	65	20	
Trinidad	2,905	93	31	
Jamaica	1,244	35	35	
Grenada	606	13	46	
St. Lucia	755	13	57	
Surinam	516	25	20	
Guadeloupe	2,739	59	46	
Average ...	2,608	51	47	

Making every allowance for the greater popularity of emigration to particular colonies over others, and for the time occupied in recruiting emigrants for certain colonies, I cannot but regard the facts set forth above, especially when taken into consideration with others that have come to my notice, as being very suggestive that the operations of the recruiters working under some of the agencies are very substantially supplemented by those of unlicensed recruiters, an evil which seems to be progressive. A comparison between the numbers recruited by a recruiter on behalf of the agencies and a recruiter on behalf of the inland emigration contractors, though, perhaps, not *quite* parallel cases, will be instructive. A recruiter on the colonial side recruits on an average 47 intending emigrants during a period of about seven or eight months, whereas the inland emigration recruiter recruits only 14 during the whole year, notwithstanding the fact that he, also, is not averse to receiving aid from unlicensed recruiters and sirdars licensed to recruit. The inference is of course that illegal recruitment is conducted on a far larger scale for the colonies than for the tea districts.

The percentage of licenses cancelled during the year under report was somewhat higher than in the previous year, being 4·26 *per cent.* compared with 3·92 *per cent.* In view of the stringent measures that are adopted to check misconduct on the part of the recruiters, and apart from the question of their availing themselves of the assistance of unlicensed recruiters, the result above noted is not very discreditable to those concerned. It is satisfactory to be able to record that cases in which young married and unmarried women and boys have been brought to the depôts, and there detained or rejected to be subsequently claimed by their relatives, have certainly been very few indeed. This may be to some extent the result of the order of Government insisting that the hitherto irresponsible sub-agents acting on behalf of the colonial agencies should be compelled to take out recruiters' licenses, and so be rendered more amenable to control; but it may also be attributed in a great measure to increased vigilance on the part of the registering officers.

9. *Terms offered by the various Colonies, &c.*—The following table gives information regarding the terms offered, and which have remained the same as in previous years:—

Colony.	Classification of emigrants.	Period of indenture.	Work.		Wages, minimum rate claimable.	Rations.		Dwelling house.	Medical care and maintenance during sickness.	Free return passage, when claimable.
			Nature.	Duration.		Prescribed.	Period of supply.			
British Guiana ...	Adult males from 15 and upwards. Male from 10 to 15 and females above 10 years of age.	Five years	Cultivation of the soil and manufacture of the produce.	Six days in the week, holidays excepted, and seven hours in the fields or ten hours in the buildings in each day.	Rs. A. P. Daily— 24 cents ... = 0 8 0 16 „ ... = 0 5 4 Payable weekly.	For adults of and above 15 years of age, at a cost of two annas and eight pies daily :— Rice ... ... 1½ lb. Dal ... ... 4 oz. Cocoanut-oil or ghee ... 1 „ Massala ... ... ½ „ Sugar ... ... 2 „ Salt ... ... ½ „ For minors of and above 10 and under 15 years of age, half the above quantities and half the cost. For infants under 10 years of age one-third the above quantities free of cost.	From the first date of delivery to any employer until the first day of October then next following.	Free of charge...	Free of charge	After ten years' continuous residence in the colony, five of them being under indenture.
Trinidad	Adult males and females from 15 years and upwards.	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Six days in the week, holidays excepted, and nine hours each day.	Daily— 1s. 0½d. ... = 0 8 4 Payable fortnightly.	For adults from 10 years and upwards:— Rice ... ... 1 lb. } Daily. Dal ... ... 4 oz. } Ghee or cocoanut-oil ... 1 „ } Sugar ... ... 2 „ } For non-adults from 5 to 10 years, half the above scale.	For two years at a cost of 2 annas and eight pies per ration. Free of charge.	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ditto.
Jamaica	Adult males from 16 years and upwards. Males from 12 to 16 years and females of any age.	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ditto ...	Daily— 1s. ... = 0 8 0 9d. ... = 0 6 0	For adults— Rice ... ... 1½ lb. } Daily. Or corn meal ... ... 2 „ } Or cooked cassava ... 2 „ } Raw ditto ... ... 5 „ } Raw yams or cocoas ... 4 „ } Split peas ... ... 3 „ } Monthly. Salt fish ... ... 6 „ } Or mutton, beef, or goat flesh. 8 „ } Ghee ... ... 1 „ } Or sweet or cocoanut-oil 1 pint. } Salt ... ... 1 lb. } Dry pepper or pimento ... 2 oz. } Fuel, sufficient. }	For the first three months, or, if necessary, for the whole period of indenture at maximum cost of 3s. 6d. weekly.	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ditto.
Grenada	Same as it is in Trinidad	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ditto ...	Same as it in Trinidad ...	Same as it is in Trinidad	Same as it is in Trinidad	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ditto.
St. Lucia	Ditto ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ditto ...	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto	Ditto ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ditto.
Mauritius .	Males— Adults above 18 years „ 15 to 18 „ „ 12 to 15 „ Minors above 10 to 12 years. Females— Adults. Male return emigrants above 18 years. Male return emigrants above 14 to 18 years.	Ditto ...	Ditto and domestic service.	Ditto ditto ...	Monthly— 10s. ... = 5 0 0 8s. ... = 4 0 0 6s. ... = 3 0 0 5s. ... = 2 8 0 Daily— 6d. ... = 0 4 0 and rice or monthly— 6s. ... = 3 0 0 11s. ... = *5 8 0 9s. ... = 4 8 0 Payable monthly.	For adults above 12 years— Rice ... ... 1½ lb. } Weekly. Pounded maize ... ... 2 „ } Cooked manioc ... ... 2½ „ } Raw ditto ... ... 5 „ } Dal ... ... 8 oz. } Monthly. Salt-fish ... ... 8 „ } Ghee or oil ... ... 4 „ } Salt ... ... 4 „ }	For whole period of indenture.	Ditto ...	Ditto ..	Not provided by the colony.

Natal*	Adult males of and above the age of 15 years.	Ditto ...	Cultivation of the soil and manufacture of the produce.	Six days in each week, holidays excepted, and eight hours in each day.	Monthly— 1st year ... 5 0 0 2nd „ ... 5 8 0 3rd „ ... 6 0 0 4th „ ... 6 8 0 5th „ ... 7 0 0	For adults— 1½lb. rice, or for three days in the week, as substitute for rice, 2lb. of pounded maize. Monthly— Dal ... ... 2 lb. Salt-fish ... ... 2 „ Ghee or oil ... ... 1 „ Salt ... ... 1 „ For non-adults, of the age of one year and upwards, half the above scale.	Ditto ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	After ten years' residence, five of them being under indenture.
	Adult females of and above the age of 15 years.	.....	.....	....	Half the above rates ...					
French Colonies...	Adult males of 16 years and upwards. Adult females of 14 years and upwards. Males from 11 to 16 years, and females from 11 to 14 years.	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ditto ...	Monthly ... 5 0 0 Ditto ... 4 0 0 Ditto ... 2 0 0 Payable weekly. Also two suits of clothes each year.	Rice, manioc, flour, salt-fish, ghee or oil, salt, &c., in the quantities fixed by Government regulations ... ... } Daily.	Ditto ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	After five years' service under indenture.
Surinam	Adult males and females from 15 years and upwards. Minor males and females from 10 to 15 years.	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Five days in the week, holidays excepted, and seven hours each day.	Daily— 24 cents ... 0 8 0 (British Guiana Currency). In proportion to amount of work performed and regulated by rates for adults payable weekly.	For adults above 10 years— Rice ... ... 1½ lb. Dal ... ... 4 oz. Ghee ... ... 1 „ Curry stuff ... ... ½ „ Sugar ... ... 2 „ Salt sufficient to season. For non-adults between 2 and 10 years, half the scale for adults.	If desired by emigrants for the first six months at a maximum cost of 60 cents per week. At a maximum cost of 30 cents per week.	Ditto ...	Free of charge, except when illness is traced to personal misconduct.	After five years' service under indenture.

* These rates are subject to yearly increments of eight annas.

With reference to the question of the right of repatriation being forfeited on the immigrant undergoing correctional or criminal condemnation during the term of indenture noticed in last year's report in connection with Guadeloupe, subsequent correspondence proves that the law on this point is not only extant, but that it is occasionally enforced.

The following table shews the number of emigrants required by the various colonies during the past two years, and the number actually despatched:—

Colonies.	1876-77.			1877-78.			Remarks.
	Number of statute adults required by the colonies.	Number despatched represented as—		Number of statute adults required by the colonies.	Number despatched represented as—		
		Statute adults.	Souls.		Statute adults	Souls.	
Demerara	6,000	3,667½	3,992	7,000	6,988½	8,288	
Trinidad	1,500	1,507½	1,601	2,000	1,935	2,151	
Jamaica	.....	.....	.....	764	764	896	
Grenada	.....	.....	.....	500	403½	461	
St. Lucia	.....	...	.....	500	485½	579	
Mauritius	1,385	915	1,027	Males 880	2,034	2,034	
Natal	2,730	715	761	„ 992	1,025	1,092	
Surinam	.....	.....	.....	300	300	324	
Guadeloupe	1,350	333½	353	2,150	2,156½	2,361	
Total ...	12,965	7,138½	7,734	15,036	16,092	18,488	

It is very satisfactory to observe that although the demand for labourers was greater during the year under review than in the previous year, the requirements of the colonies have been, with but few and unimportant exceptions, fully met.

Of the 18,488 emigrants despatched to the different colonies, 306 were returned emigrants, as is here shewn:—

Colonies.	Number who re-emigrated.	Colonies.	Number who re-emigrated.
Maritius	121	Surinam	8
Demerara	99	Grenada	4
Trinidad	40	St. Lucia...	1
Jamaica	10		
Natal	12	Total ...	306
Guadelope	11		

The above number is considerably less than the number who re-emigrated in the previous year, which was 401. (*Note.*—The numbers given in last year's report are not quite accurate, as they omit the women who re-emigrated to Mauritius.)

The following statement shews the number of emigrants who re-emigrated to the various colonies, and the colonies from which they had previously returned:—

Had returned from—	Proceeded to—																	
	Mauritius.		Demerara.		Trinidad.		Jamaica.		Natal.		Guadeloupe.		Surinam.		Grenada.		St. Lucia.	
	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-76.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.	1876-77.	1877-78.
	Souls.	Souls.	Souls.	Souls.	Souls.	Souls.	Souls.	Souls.	Souls.	Souls.	Souls.	Souls.	Souls.	Souls.	Souls.	Souls.	Souls.	Souls.
Mauritius ...	193	103	6	19	5	7	.....	2	13	2	1	6	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	....
Jamaica	15	6	17	6	2	3	.. .	7	.....	3	2	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Demerara ...	7	5	96	66	3	5	.....	.....	7	1	3	2	.....	8	.....	.....	.....	.....
Trinidad ...	. .	4	1	3	13	19	.....	1	2	4	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Réunion ...	1	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	. ....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Natal ...	.....	.....	10	5	.....	.....	. ....	.....	2	2	.. ...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	... .	.....
St Vincent...	.....	.....	3	.....	... ..	6	.....	... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	... ..	. ..	.....
Grenada ...	..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4	.. ...	1
St. Lucia ...	..	.....	.....	.....	.	... ..	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	..	.. ..	.....	.....	.. ..	.. .
Total ...	216	121	132	99	23	40	.....	10	24	12	6	11	....	8	.....	4	.. ..	1

10. *Intending emigrants.*—The following table gives information regarding the intending emigrants from the time of registration to that of admission into the several depôts, as furnished by the agencies, together with the number

registered according to the reports submitted to this department by the several registering officers:—

Agencies.	Number registered as per Registering Officer's reports.	Number registered as per Emigration Agent's arrival reports.	Maximum number said to have been registered.	Casualties. Absconded or lost.	Died.	Unwilling.	Rejected.	Total.	Admitted into depôts.	Unaccounted for.	Excess number accounted for.
Mauritius ...	2,944	3,128	3,128	60	...	4	11	84	3,044	.....	.....
Demerara ...	8,596	10,236	10,256	89	...	...	499	588	9,008	20	.....
Natal ...	1,208	1,347	1,347	...	...	...	20	...	1,315	32	2
Trinidad ...	2,748	2,905	2,905	64	...	...	3	84	2,821	.....	.....
Jamaica ...	1,344	1,156	1,244	3	...	...	...	6	1,156	82	.....
Grenada ...	606	579	606	5	...	...	...	5	579	22	.....
St. Lucia ...	755	724	755	1	...	...	...	1	724	30	.....
Surinam ...	516	504	516	...	...	...	...	...	504	12	.....
Guadeloupe ...	2,739	2,733	2,739	57	...	20	39	116	2,733	.....	113
Total ...	21,356	23,312	23,476	288	...	24	572	884	21,544	198	113

From the above it will be seen how impossible it is for this department to exercise proper supervision over the operations of the recruiters. It is a matter of the very greatest importance that accurate copies of all the registrations effected in the various districts should be forwarded punctually to the Emigration office, and, although there has been some improvement in this respect over the previous year, much remains to be done before anything like completeness is attained. In fairness, however, to the Bengal officers concerned, it should be explained that the officers principally at fault are those serving under other Governments. There is a discrepancy between the numbers as furnished to this department by the Emigration Agents and registering officers of 2,284, 2,120 being unaccounted for by the latter officers, and no traces of the remaining 164 being found in the returns of the former.

The following table affords full information with reference to the number admitted into each depôt, the casualties from all causes, the despatches to the several colonies, the unrequired surplus of coolies remaining at the end of the season, and the balance remaining at the end of the year:—

Colonies.	Admitted into depôt.	Casualties. Rejections. As unfit to labour. Number.	Percentage.	Accompanying those rejected as unfit. Number.	Percentage.	Total. Number.	Percentage.	Releases. Unwilling to emigrate. Number.	Percentage.	Claimed by relatives. Number.	Percentage.	Total. Number.	Percentage.	Desertions Number.	Percentage.	Deaths. Number.	Percentage.	Total casualties. Number.	Percentage.	Despatched to colonies. Number.	Percentage.	Unrequired surplus at end of season. Number.	Percentage.	Balance remaining at the end of the year. Number.	Percentage.
Mauritius ...	3,044	86	2·82	33	1·08	119	3·90	...	...	6	0·19	6	0·19	344	11·24	41	1·34	510	16·75	2,336	76·74	...	...	198	6·50
Demerara ...	9,008	607	6·27	370	3·82	977	10·10	30	0·31	10	0·10	40	0·41	274	2·83	60	0·61	1,351	13·97	8,288	85·72	29	0·20	...	...
Natal ...	1,315	31	2·35	..	...	31	2·35	8	0·60	1	0·08	9	0·68	75	5·70	2	0·15	117	8·89	1,092	83·04	106	8·06	...	..
Trinidad ...	2,821	147	5·21	39	1·38	186	6·59	57	2·02	17	0·60	74	2·62	183	6·48	6	0·21	449	15·91	2,151	76·28	221	7 83	.	...
Jamaica ...	1,156	62	5·36	41	3·54	103	8·91	5	0·43	...	..	5	0·43	38	3·28	9	0·77	155	13·41	896	77·50	105	9·08	...	...
Grenada ...	579	16	2·76	6	1·04	22	3·80	...	...	1	0·17	1	0·17	2	0·34	...	..	25	4·31	461	79·62	93	16·06	..	...
St. Lucia ...	724	12	1·65	8	1·11	20	2·76	...	..	...	..	...	...	13	1 72	5	0·69	38	5·24	570	79·97	107	14·77	.	..
Surinam ...	504	78	15·47	...	..	78	15·47	20	3·96	4	0·80	24	4·76	53	10·51	1	0 19	156	30·95	324	64·28	24	4·76	..	...
Guadeloupe ..	2,733	157	5·74	44	1·61	201	7·35	35	1·24	10	0·36	45	1·64	55	2·01	44	1·60	345	12·62	2,361	86·38	27	0·98	..	..
Total ...	22,544	1,196	5·35	541	2·35	1,737	7·70	155	0·68	49	0·22	204	0·90	1,037	4·59	168	0·74	3,146	13·95	18,488	82·00	712	3·15	198	0 87

In showing the rejections and releases, I have departed from the course adopted in the previous reports, because it appears to me that not only is such a heading far too comprehensive, but that the information under each head should be shown separately. It would also seem to be desirable that these headings should again be subdivided in order to demonstrate clearly the causes which led to the rejections and releases. Under this head have hitherto been included (*a*) the actual rejections of intending emigrants on account of physical unfitness to labour, (*b*) the number of healthy persons accompanying them who were released in consequence of such rejections, (*c*) those who were released as unwilling to emigrate or were claimed by relatives, and (*d*) many of those who were transferred to other depôts at the end of the season. Under these circumstances it will be difficult to compare the results

of the two past years, though the fact that the *percentage* of the number actually despatched to the colonies during the year under review was in excess of that of the number despatched in 1876-77 is an indication that the operations of the agencies were more successful in 1877-78 than in the previous year. It will be seen that of the 22,544 persons admitted into the depôts, 1,196 = 5·35 *per cent.* were rejected as physically unfit, 541 = 2·35 *per cent.* were rejected as they accompanied the persons rejected as unfit to labour, 155 = 0·68 *per cent.* were released as unwilling to fulfil their engagement, and 49 = 10·22 *per cent.* were claimed by relatives. The desertions amounted to 1,037 = 4·59 *per cent.*, and the deaths to 168 = 0·74 *per cent.*

Rejections.—Of the 1,196 persons rejected as being physically unfit, by far the larger number was contributed by Demerara, though the ratio *per cent.* to admissions is not half so high as was the case in the Surinam depôt, which amounted to 15·47 *per cent.* Having inquired very carefully into the causes which led to the large number of rejections for physical unfitness, I am in a position to state that every endeavour is made by both the agent for Demerara (Mr. Firth) and the agent for Trinidad, Jamaica, Grenada, and St. Lucia (Mr. Mitchell) to minimize the number of rejections. They make very liberal allowances to the medical men who conduct the examinations of the intending emigrants on their behalf, and it is certainly not creditable to those concerned that such large numbers of evidently unfit persons should have been submitted to the hardships of long journeys for no purpose and at such a heavy pecuniary loss to these agencies. There were at least 508 persons rejected on arrival at the Demerara depôt who were manifestly constitutionally unfit, notwithstanding the most stringent instructions that had been issued to the medical examiners. None of the other agencies have hitherto employed medical examiners in the districts. The agent for Surinam (Mr. Van Cutsem) explains circumstantially the very large number of rejections, 78 = 15·74 *per cent.*, which occurred at his depôt. He states that in consequence of the heavy mortality which had occurred in Dutch Guiana amongst Indian immigrants, and the action taken thereon by the Indian Government in suspending emigration to the colony, the instructions received by him from his Government as to the selection of labourers were so stringent, that in carrying them out a large number of rejections was inevitable. As evidence of the success which attended his efforts in this direction, he appeals (*a*) to the results of the shipment per steamer *Clive*, which conveyed 324 souls to Surinam without a single death, though the voyage lasted 77 days; and (*b*) to the fact that the mortality amongst these immigrants during the first three months after their arrival—generally the most trying time—was as low as 4·0 *per cent.* per annum. The numbers released from their engagement on account of the rejected persons was large in the Jamaica and Demerara depôts, being 3·54 *per cent.* and 3·82 *per cent.* of the admissions respectively.

Releases.—Under this head has been included only the number released as unwilling to emigrate, and those claimed by, or restored to, their relatives. The number released as "unwilling to emigrate" was comparatively small, except in the case of the Surinam depôt, where it amounted to 3·96 *per cent.* In explanation of this circumstance Mr. Van Cutsem says—"Their number was considerably augmented by a batch of dancing-girls and women of a similar description, with their male attendants. These people laughed at the idea of labouring as agriculturists." This explanation discloses a very unsatisfactory state of things in reference to the manner in which recruitment is often conducted. It would at first appear to be a satisfactory feature in the operations of the Mauritius agency that not a single individual declared his unwillingness to emigrate; but looking to the fact that the desertions were very numerous, 344 = 11·24 *per cent.*, it cannot but be regarded as a very suspicious circumstance. The comparative number claimed by relatives was highest at the Trinidad and Surinam depots, being 0·60 per cent. and 0·80 per cent. respectively.

Desertions.—The desertions have been somewhat fewer during the year under review than in the previous year, being 4·59 per cent. against 5·21 per cent. The comparatively large proportion of desertions from the Mauritius and Surinam depôts is far from satisfactory. In the case of the Surinam depôt

desertions, Mr. E. Van Cutsem, the agent, thinks they are mainly due to the following causes:—

(*a*) An unusually long detention in the depôt;

(*b*) the unusually high rate of wages which prevailed in Calcutta at the time;

(*c*) intrigue on the part of certain designing coolies and one of the durwans of the depôt.

Notwithstanding these conditions, however, there is very good reason to believe that the great majority of the desertions from the depôts are the outcome of illegal recruitment, which requires the adoption of very stringent measures for its suppression. I may here mention that in every instance in which a misdemeanour has been brought home to a recruiter, he has been punished. The death-rate has already been considered in paragraph 6.

Unrequired surplus at the end of the season.—The numbers under this head were rather too numerous in some cases, but as the coolies were generally transferred through this department to other agencies, no particular hardship resulted to the intending emigrants.

The rule laying down the proportion of women to men at a minimum of 40 of the former to 100 of the latter has been complied with, except by the Mauritius and Natal agencies, the former shewing a deficiency of three and the latter of 42 to be made good during the year 1878-79. The Demerara agency supplied the previous year's deficiency; but of the 192 to the debit of the French agency, only 11 were made good. Special steps are to be taken, however, during the ensuing year to complete the number required by the rule.

The subjoined statement affords full information on the subject:—

Colonies.	Men.	Women.	Proportion.	Deficiency at the close of the previous year.	Deficiency made up during the year.	Deficiency remaining at the close of the year.
Demerara	4,403	1,994	45·28	40	40	.....
Trinidad	1,284	546	42·52	.....	.....	.....
Jamaica	487	208	42·71	.....	.....	.....
Grenada	265	107	40·37	.....	.....	.....
St. Lucia	286	158	55·24	.....	.....	.....
Mauritius	1,372	545	39·72	.....	.....	3
Natal	737	256	34·73	3	.....	42
Surinam	211	85	40·28	.....	.....	.....
Guadeloupe	1,455	593	40·75	192	11	181
Total ...	10,500	4,492	42·78	.....	.....	.....

The provinces from which the emigrants actually despatched to the colonies were recruited, as well as the districts in each province in their relative order of importance as supply-markets, are given in the annexed statement:—

Provinces.	Districts.	Number of Souls despatched for the Colonies.									Total.
		Mauritius.	Demerara.	Trinidad.	Jamaica.	Grenada.	St. Lucia.	Natal.	Surinam.	Guadeloupe.	
North-Western...	Allahabad, Azimghur, Mirzapore, Benares, Ghazeepore, Goruckpore, Meerut, Cawnpore, Bareilly, Agra, Jhansi, and Jounpore.	1,221	4,581	1,001	462	286	281	492	93	711	9,099
Behar	Patna, Gya, Arrah, Sarun, Tirhoot, Chumparun, Monghyr, Bhagulpore, and Purneah.	907	510	298	26	24	13	160	113	987	3,038
Oudh	Lucknow, Seetapore, Sultanpore, Fyzabad, and Roy Bareilly.	90	2,113	578	410	146	283	287	102	151	4,165
Bengal	Calcutta, 24-Pergunnahs, Howrah, Nuddea, Burdwan, Moorshidabad, Jessore, Pubna, Rungpore, Cooch Behar, Chota Nagpore, Bankoora, Beerbhoom, Midnapore, Sonthal Pergunnahs, Dacca, Mymensingh, Backergunge, and Furreedpore.	84	42	103	13	1	1	6	2	16	268
Miscellaneous Madras and Bombay, &c.	Unknown	13	847	131	1	.....	.....	113	5	479	1,594
Native States ...	Unknown	2	11	5	.....	.....	.....	12	6	5	41
Punjab and Dependencies.	Delhi, Umballa, Jullunder, Umritsur, Lahore, Peshawur, Ferozepore, and Guzerat.	10	37	7	3	2	.....	6	2	2	69
Central India ...	Indore, Nagpore, Jubbulpore, Raipore, Rewan, and Gwalior.	2	137	18	11	2	1	15	1	10	197
Orissa	Cuttack, Balasore and Pooree	2	5	10	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	18
	Total ...	2,336	8,288	2,151	896	461	579	1,092	324	2,361	18,498

About half the coolies admitted into the Mauritius, Demerara, Jamaica, Trinidad, Grenada, St. Lucia, and Natal depôts, and one-third of those admitted into the Guadeloupe and Surinam depôts, were obtained from the North-Western Provinces.

Behar supplied half of the coolies admitted into the Guadeloupe depôt, more than one-third of those admitted into Surinam depôt, and about one-third of the Mauritius depôt coolies. Oudh was indented upon for about half the coolies belonging to the Jamaica and St. Lucia depôts; about one-quarter of those admitted into the depôts of the Demerara, Trinidad, Grenada, and Natal agencies; and exactly one-third of the number in the Surinam depôt.

The provinces from which the excess number on last year's despatches was recruited are shewn in the following statement: —

	Increase.
North-Western Provinces	6,123
Behar	592
Oudh	2,861
Unknown	1,328
Central India	89
Punjab, &c.	18
Total ...	11,011
	Decrease
Bengal	202
Native states	53
Orissa	2
Total ...	257
Increase on the previous year's despatch ...	10,754

It is seen that while the North-Western Provinces and Oudh supplied considerably more of the emigrants, the supply from Behar was not proportionately greater, and that from Bengal—always comparatively small—was reduced almost one-half.

11. *Emigrant vessels.*—The following table shews that one steam-ship and 37 sailing ships were engaged in the conveyance of the 18,488 emigrants from this port to the several colonies, each vessel carrying an average of 486 emigrants, compared with 18 sailing ships which conveyed 7,734 emigrants, an average of 429 per ship during the year 1876-77:—

Colonies	Ships left this port in						Number of souls	Average number of souls per ship.
	1876-77.			1877-78.				
	Sailing ships.	Steam ships.	Total.	Sailing ships.	Steam ships.	Total		
Demerara	8	...	8	15	...	15	8,288	552
Trinidad	3	...	3	4	...	4	2,151	538
Jamaica	...	...	...	2	...	2	896	448
Mauritius	4	...	4	6	...	6	2,336	389
Natal	2	...	2	3	..	3	1,092	364
Grenada	...	...	...	1	...	1	461	461
St. Lucia	...	...	...	1	...	1	679	679
Surinam	...		...	...	1	1	324	324
Guadeloupe	1	...	1	5	...	5	2,361	473
Total ...	18	...	18	37	1	38	18,488	.....

Information regarding each vessel, as far as it is available, is here given:—

Number.	Name of vessel.	Colonies to which emigrants were conveyed.	Name of Surgeon.	Date of departure.	Date of arrival at destination.	Length of voyage.	Number of souls embarked.	Mortality during the voyage.	Percentage of mortality.
1	"Jumna" ...	Natal ...	T. D. Atkins ...	8th April 1877	1st June 1877	55	423	5	1·18
2	"Glenroy" ...	Do. ...	L. M. Grenoire ...	11th May ,,	27th ,, ,,	48	463	3	0·64
3	"Sylhet" ...	Mauritius ...	R. St. Romaine ...	15th June ,,	14th ,, ,,	28	278	2	0·71
4	"Umvoti" ...	Natal ...	R. L. Kennedee	20th ,, ,,	2nd August ,,	44	206	1	0·48
5	Steamer "Clive" ...	Surinam ...	J. Hinders ..	4th July ,,	18th September ,,	77	324	...	...
6	"Ailsa" ...	Demerara ...	William Holman...	1st August ,,	7th November ,,	99	485	11	2·26
7	"Jorawar" ...	Trinidad ...	C. Chapman ...	5th ,, ,,	18th ,, ,,	104	657	30	4·56
8	"Allumghier" ...	Mauritius ..	A. Noel ...	21st ,, ,,	22nd September ,,	32	329	1	0·30
9	"Botanist" ...	Guadeloupe ..	J. Alavine ...	21st ,, ,,	29th November ,,	101	454	21	4·62
10	"Sheila" ...	Demerara ...	G. Stewart ...	21st ,, ,,	1st December ,,	96	549	8	1·45
11	"Jumna" ...	Guadeloupe ...	— Ganzer ...	18th September ,,	..... ,,	...	439	...	...
12	"Lightning" ...	Trinidad ...	W. Arthur ...	21st ,, ,,	28th December ,,	97	524	10	1·90
13	"Artist" ...	Demerara ...	R. Rivers ...	30th ,, ,,	2nd January 1878	95	552	17	3·07
14	"Ganges" ...	Trinidad ...	C. Penn ...	4th October ,,	5th February ,,	125	490	17	3·46
15	"Essex" ...	Guadeloupe ...	F. Bellamy ...	9th ,, ,,	..... ,,	...	497	...	...
16	"Merchantman" ...	Mauritius ...	Sheik Hosseinny...	11th ,, ,,	17th October 1877	37	378	8	2·11
17	"Jura" ...	Demerara ...	J. S. Ireland ...	27th ,, ,,	25th January 1878	91	608	14	2·30
18	"Syria" ...	Trinidad ...	T. D. Atkins ...	31st ,, ,,	2nd February ,,	95	480	16	3·33
19	"Sylhet" ...	Jamaica ...	E. A. Hardwick ...	17th November ,,	19th ,, ,,	95	525	4	0·76
20	"Naturalist" ...	Demerara ...	J. S. Hughes ...	24th ,, ,,	27th ,, ,,	96	480	14	2·91
21	"Sussex" ...	Ditto ..	J. B. Menzies ...	27th ,, ,,	30th March ,,	93	577	19	3·42
22	"Glenroy" ...	Mauritius ...	D. M. Renaud ...	28th ,, ,,	29th December 1877	81	496	12	2·41
23	"Ballock Moyle" ...	Demerara ...	J. M. Barry ...	9th December ,,	27th February 1878	81	617	13	2·10
24	"Baun" ...	Guadeloupe ...	L. Ercole ...	12th ,, ,,	..... ,,	...	534	...	...
25	"Hespirides" ...	Demerara ...	E. Nook ...	11th ,, ,,	..... ,,	..	611	...	...
26	"Hermoine" ...	Grenada ...	R. St. Romaine ..	20th ,, ,,	20th March ,,	90	401	4	0·86
27	"King Arthur" ...	Demerara ...	R. Whitelam ...	25th ,, ,,	20th ,, ,,	87	485	13	2·68
28	"Howrah" ...	Ditto ...	C. L. Cunningham	4th January 1878	..... ,,	...	495	...	...
29	"Chetah" ...	Jamaica ...	A. E. Prockter ...	6th ,, ,,	9th April ,,	92	371	6	1·61
30	"Canada" ...	Mauritius ...	G. H. Booth ...	17th ,, ,,	24th February ,,	38	478	2	0·41
31	"Senator" ...	Demerara ...	F. C. Shaw ...	19th ,, ,,	..... ,,	...	652	...	...
32	"Brechin Castle" ...	Guadeloupe ...	— Boulain ...	20th ,, ,,	..... ,,	...	437	...	...
33	"Pandora" ...	Demerara ...	J. G. Winstone ...	25th ,, ,,	..... ,,	..	527	...	...
34	"Leonidas" ...	St. Lucia ...	A. H. Savrey ...	29th ,, ,,	2nd May ,,	95	579	3	0·53
35	"Nova" ...	Demerara ...	J. M. Lainy ..	1st February ,,	..... ,,	...	519	...	...
36	"Boyne" ...	Ditto ...	William Holman...	13th ,, ,,	..... ,,	...	568	...	...
37	"Philosopher" ...	Ditto ...	G. Stewart ...	21st ,, ,,	..... ,,	...	563	...	...
38	"Allumghier" ...	Mauritius ...	F. Brun ...	17th March ,,	..... ,,	...	377	...	...

It will be observed that detailed information is available for only 26 of the 38 ships which left the port of Calcutta for the several colonies. The average length of the voyage was 77 days, and the average number of emigrants in each ship 472. As the total number of deaths amounted to 245, the average *per* ship was $9\frac{7}{10}$, or two *per cent.* during a voyage of 77 days = 9·50 *per cent. per annum.* Comparing these results with those of the previous year, the death-rate has been very high, being *two per cent.* against 1·38 *per cent.* for 1876-77. Cholera occurred on board only one vessel, the *Artist.*

The highest mortality as far as the records shew was on board the *Botanist,* and the unhealthiness of the trip is attributed by the Surgeon Superintendent, M. J. Alvoine, to the dampness of the vessel, owing to the fact of her having been previously used for the conveyance of salt. Dr. Hughes also similarly accounts for the sickness on board the ship *Naturalist,* of which he was in charge. The heavy mortality on board the ship *Jorawar* is said by Dr. Chapman to have resulted principally from measles. It is not necessary to enter into the circumstances attending each voyage, as they were fully gone into as the records came to hand, and reports on each vessel have been submitted to Government.

12. *Return emigrants.*—The annexed statement exhibits the number of emigrants who returned from certain colonies, the amount of their acknowledged savings, and the mortality during the return voyage:—

Colonies.	Number of ships.	Number of souls.	Average percentage of mortality.		Savings.	
					Aggregate amount.	Average amount.
					Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.
Mauritius	5	1,284	0·62	8	1,92,090 0 0	149 9 7
Demerara	1	429	1·22	6	1,01,861 6 8	208 4 10
Trinidad	1 and 4 Mail steamer	459	2 83	13	1,26,626 7 3	275 13 11
Natal	1	5	.....	.....	.....	.....
Jamaica	1	307	3 19	12	52,349 0 4	170 8 3
Total ...	9 and 4 Mail steamer	2,544	1·13	39	4,72,926 14 3	185 14 4

Thus it will be seen that 2,544 souls returning from the several colonies brought back with them an average of Rs. 185-14-4—an enhancement of Rs. 7-14-3 per head upon the savings of those who returned in the previous year. Trinidad, as usual, heads the list, with an average of Rs. 275-13-11 per individual.

In addition to the above sums, many of the return emigrants possessed jewellery of considerable value. Some remarkable instances of emigrants' success in Trinidad have been reported by Mr. Mitchell, the agent for that colony. In December 1877 two coolies, Juppi and Rughoonandun, entered thorough-bred race-horses for six out of twelve races, and won five of considerable value. In 1875 and 1876 Anjoow, a coolie, ran blood-horses, and won six out of twelve events in the first year, and two in the latter. Mr. Mitchell states further that in the town of San Fernando, second in commercial importance to the capital of the Colony, 22 of the burgesses are coolie emigrants who arrived in Trinidad some years ago as ordinary contract labourers "of the same class" as those who usually emigrate from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh to the tea gardens of Assam and Cachar.—An Indian emigrant died lately at Trinidad, leaving a fortune of one hundred and thirty-four thousand rupees (Rs. 1,34,000).

The following extract from a report made by the Reverend Henry Moore, a Moravian Missionary, has been sent to me by Mr. Firth, the Emigration Agent for Demerara:—

"There can be no doubt that the coolies in Demerara are very happy—as happy as they care to be—happier, certainly, than such as those in their own country could possibly be. They are provided with neat and comfortable cottages, they obtain good wages—from 1*s*. to 4*s*. per diem. They can save money, and they do. They buy cattle. A coolie is presumed to be able to save at the least an average sum of one dollar a week. In six or eight months after his arrival in the colony he purchases his cow, he sells his milk to the estate hospital, or in the town; he rears up calves and other live-stock, he prospers, and soon has an account at the savings' bank. He is treated kindly by the estate authorities. He is far from being in serfdom or semi-serfdom. Should he feel aggrieved, there are Government immigration officials to whom he does not hesitate to apply. He has his schools, his hospital, his doctor, his missionary. Those in England of the anti-slavery party who complain of the bad treatment, of the unsatisfactory condition of the coolies, need but to come and live for a few days near any coolie village on either of the plantations, to learn that the condition of the coolies is comfortable, and their treatment by the estate authorities all that could be desired. There is no such thing as planter-oppression and injustice towards them. The most unsatisfactory features are in the coolies' own domestic life and habits, the wife-beating, the drunkenness, the apparently almost total absence of religion, and the excessive sharpness of his frugality. One would like to see them more cleanly, and adopting in their personal appearance a little more extensively the habits and customs of civilized life. They are in many respects an interesting people, and the more closely one comes into contact with them, the more one gets to appreciate them, and to realize the services that they render to the country and the services the country renders to them. Many even of the coolies are complained of as being lazy, adopting the habit, in that respect, of the natives, from whom it is said the Barbadians contracted it; many of the coolies scarcely ever work on Mondays, and do very little on Tuesdays.

The above facts appear to testify not only to the industry and providence of many of the emigrants, but to the favourable nature of the terms under which they emigrate to certain colonies.

13. *Financial statement.*—For similar reasons to those given last year, I regret that I am unable to submit with this report an account of the receipts and disbursements in connection with the working of the department. A special report will, however, be submitted as soon as necessary information is available for the purpose.

In conclusion, I have the honour to submit the following returns for the year under review:—

1. Annual return of emigrants despatched to Demerara.
2. Ditto ditto ditto Trinidad.
3. Ditto ditto ditto Jamaica.
4. Ditto ditto ditto Grenada.
5. Ditto ditto ditto St. Lucia.
6. Ditto ditto ditto Natal.
7. Ditto ditto ditto Mauritius.
8. Ditto ditto ditto Surinam.
9. Ditto ditto ditto Guadeloupe.
10. Table exhibiting the number of emigrants to and from the West India Colonies.
11. Ditto ditto ditto ditto Mauritius and Natal.

V. RICHARDS,
Officiating Protector of Emigrants.

Table exhibiting the number and description of East Indian emigrants who have left Calcutta for Mauritius and Natal during the year 1877-78, *and the numbers returned therefrom during the same period, with the amount of their savings, remittances, &c.*

	1877-78.		
	Mauritius. No.	Natal. No.	Total. No.
Embarked—			
Men	1,372	737	2,109
Women	545	256	801
Children—			
Boys	140	42	182
Girls	94	22	116
Infants—			
Boys	94	18	112
Girls	91	17	108
Total number of souls	2,336	1,092	3,428
Ditto of statute adults ...	2,034	1,025	3,059
Returned—			
Men	881	2	883
Women	203	2	205
Children—			
Boys	92	...	92
Girls	89	1	90
Infants—			
Boys	10	...	10
Girls	9	...	9
Total number of souls	1,284	5	1,289
Ditto of statute adults ...	1,179⅛	4½	1,184⅛
	Rs.		Rs.
Amount of savings brought by return emigrants	1,92,090	...	1,92,090

Table exhibiting the number and description of East Indian emigrants who have left Calcutta for the West Indies during the year 1877-78, *and the numbers returned therefrom during the same period, with the amount of their savings, remittances, &c.*

	1877-78.							
	Demerara. No.	Trinidad. No.	Jamaica. No.	Grenada. No.	St. Lucia. No.	Surinam. No.	Guadeloupe No.	Total. No.
Embarked—								
Men	4,403	1,284	487	265	286	211	1,455	8,391
Women	1,994	546	208	107	158	85	593	3,691
Children—								
Boys	7[illegible]8	124	80	38	51	5	115	1,116
Girls	480	86	58	25	32	3	102	786
Infants—								
Boys	342	59	35	11	27	9	51	534
Girls	366	52	28	15	25	11	45	542
Total number of souls ...	8,288	2,151	896	461	579	324	2,361	15,060
Total number of statute adults	69,88½	1,935	764	4,03½	485½	300	2,156½	13,033
Returned—								
Men	247	263	202	.....	.....	.....	.....	712
Women	130	104	60	.....	.....	...	.....	294
Children—								
Boys	44	31	17	.....	.....	.....	.....	92
Girls	49	49	23	.....	.....	.....	.....	121
Infants—								
Boys	11	6	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	20
Girls	8	6	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	16
Total number of souls ...	489	459	307	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,255
Total number of statute adults	4:3½	407	282	.....	.....	.....	.....	1,112½
Amount of savings brought by return emigrants	Rs. A. P. 1,01,861 6 8	Rs. A. P. 1,26,626 7 3*	Rs. A. P. 52,349 0 4	.	.....	.....	.....	Rs. A. P. 2,80,836 14 3

* This amount includes savings of emigrants who returned to India by four mail steamers.

Annual Return of Emigrants despatched to Demerara, Trinidad, Jamaica, Grenada, St. Lucia, Natal, Mauritius, Surinam, and the French West India Colonies, during the year 1877-78.

No. 1.—As to Age and Sex.

	Demerara.			Trinidad.			Jamaica.			Grenada.			St. Lucia.			Natal.			Mauritius.			Surinam.			Guadaloupe.			Total.		Grand total.	Remarks.
	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.	Total.	Male.	Female.		
Under 2 years	342	366	708	59	52	111	35	28	63	11	15	26	27	25	52	18	17	35	94	91	185	9	11	20	51	45	96	646	650	1,296	
From 2 to 16 years	703	480	1,183	124	86	210	96	55	128	38	25	63	51	32	83	42	22	64	149	84	234	5	3	8	115	102	217	1,285	992	2,280	
„ 16 to 20 „	933	402	1,335	417	136	553	118	58	176	55	20	75	54	41	95	252	68	320	241	133	374	56	23	79	267	163	430	2,488	1,044	3,537	
„ 20 to 30 „	3,630	1,492	4,522	770	365	1,135	342	137	479	200	78	278	214	108	322	424	165	589	612	270	882	147	58	205	1,024	407	1,431	6,763	2,680	9,443	
„ 30 to 40 „	429	96	525	83	36	119	26	12	38	10	9	19	18	9	27	54	23	81	409	122	634	8	4	12	63	23	85	1,193	357	1,550	
„ 40 to 50 „	11	4	15	14	8	22	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	19	16	35	...	...	...	2	...	2	49	29	78	
Above 50 years	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	2	4	
Grand Total ...	5,448	2,840	8,288	1,467	684	2,151	602	294	896	314	147	461	364	215	579	797	295	1,092	1,606	730	2,336	225	99	324	1,621	740	2,361	12,444	6,044	18,488	

No. 2.—As to places whence Emigrants came to Calcutta for Embarkation.

Orissa	5	...	5	5	5	10	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	2	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	5	18	
Western Bengal	14	8	22	18	28	46	9	4	13	...	1	1	1	...	1	4	2	6	12	16	28	...	...	...	8	5	13	66	64	130	
Central Bengal	7	7	14	23	29	52	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	22	21	43	...	2	2	1	...	1	53	59	112	
Eastern Bengal	5	1	6	5	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	1	13	...	...	...	1	1	2	23	3	26	
Behar	320	190	510	206	90	296	20	6	26	19	5	24	5	8	13	106	54	160	623	284	907	72	41	113	647	340	987	2,020	1,018	3,038	
North-Western Provinces ...	2,956	1,625	4,581	697	314	1,001	293	129	422	191	95	286	177	104	281	340	132	472	838	383	1,221	64	29	93	540	171	711	6,166	2,922	9,088	
Oudh	1,469	658	2,118	409	169	578	269	141	410	100	46	146	180	103	283	224	63	287	71	19	90	76	26	102	137	14	151	2,926	1,239	4,165	
Central India	92	45	137	14	4	18	7	4	11	2	...	2	1	...	1	12	3	15	2	...	2	1	...	1	8	2	10	139	58	197	
Punjab	31	6	37	7	...	7	3	...	3	2	...	2	...	...	...	6	...	6	9	1	10	2	...	2	1	1	2	61	8	69	
Nepaul	7	4	11	5	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11	1	12	2	...	2	5	1	6	5	...	5	35	6	41	
Mix Madras, Bombay, &c. ...	581	296	847	86	45	131	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	73	40	113	13	5	18	5	...	5	273	206	479	1,002	502	1,504	
Grand Total ...	5,448	2,840	8,288	1,467	684	2,151	602	294	896	314	174	461	364	215	579	797	295	1,092	1,606	730	2,336	225	99	324	1,621	740	2,361	12,444	6,044	18,488	

No. 3.—As to Caste and Religion.

Brahmins, high caste	537	249	786	215	92	307	88	39	127	26	14	40	30	15	45	156	60	216	233	65	298	36	24	60	266	78	344	1,587	636	2,223	
Agriculturists } Hindoos ... {	1,366	545	1,853	406	153	561	196	66	262	93	44	137	108	51	159	224	51	275	431	158	589	87	24	111	413	78	491	3,208	1,170	4,484	
Artizans }	205	83	288	65	36	101	19	4	23	9	1	10	7	7	14	56	22	78	71	30	101	14	6	20	86	42	128	532	231	763	
Low castes }	2,808	1,617	4,425	586	292	878	257	151	408	145	69	214	186	124	310	279	109	388	668	387	1,055	53	29	82	668	379	1,047	5,650	2,157	8,807	
Mussulmans	585	246	831	193	111	304	42	34	76	41	19	60	33	18	51	82	52	134	202	90	292	35	16	51	198	163	361	1,401	849	2,250	
Christians	5	...	5	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	1	7	
Grand Total ...	5,448	2,840	8,288	1,467	684	2,151	602	294	896	314	147	461	364	215	579	797	295	1,092	1,606	730	2,336	225	99	324	1,621	740	2,361	12,444	6,044	18,488	

Memorandum.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1. Hindoos	11,037	5,194	16,231
2. Mussulmans	1,401	849	2,250
3. Christians	6	1	7
Total ...	12,444	6,044	18,488

V. RICHARDS,
Officiating Protector of Emigrants.

B. P. M.—Regr. No. 3081—190—1-8-78.

GENERAL DEPARTMENT.

EMIGRATION.

CALCUTTA, THE 12TH SEPTEMBER 1878.

RESOLUTION.

READ—

The report of the Protector of Emigrants to British and Foreign Colonies during the year ending 31st March 1878.

Read again—

The reports of the two previous years, with the orders of Government thereon.

EMIGRATION to the colonies appears to have received a remarkable impulse during 1877-78, partly no doubt from the well directed measures of the Emigration Agents, but mainly owing to the scarcity in Oudh and the North-Western Provinces, whence the larger proportion of the supply of colonial emigrants is usually drawn. In consequence of the combined operation of these causes, the number of emigrants actually despatched rose from 7,734 in 1876-77 to 18,488 in the past year. In view of this extraordinary activity of recruiting operations continuous efforts were made by Government to guard against abuses, one important step taken being to require all unauthorized sub-agents to take out licenses as recruiters so as to bring them within the control of the law. The attention of the District Magistrates was also drawn to certain points in respect of which their careful co-operation is essential to the success of emigration, and a variety of minor reforms have been or are being introduced with the object of providing for the health and comfort of the emigrants during their stay in Calcutta and on the voyage to the colony for which they have engaged. Sir Ashley Eden has on several occasions expressed opinions in favour of encouraging emigration to British colonies, not only as affording an outlet for the surplus population of the overcrowded districts of Behar and the North-Western Provinces, but as indirectly tending to raise the standard of living among Indian labourers. He therefore views with satisfaction the increase last year in the number of emigrants.

2. The duties of Protector of Emigrants were discharged by five different officers during the year, and the present incumbent, Dr. V. Richards, only took charge of the work on the 16th March 1878. These changes were unfortunate but unavoidable, and it does not appear that the business of the office was materially affected by them.

3. Under the orders of the Government of India some important alterations were made during the year in Rule 23 which regulates the proportion of female to male emigrants, the object of the modifications being to reduce the number of women despatched during the monsoon months when the voyage is supposed to be more trying to weak persons, and increase the number shipped later in the season. Some practical difficulty has been found in enforcing the new rules, and in the case of the Colony of Guadeloupe they have been relaxed for the present season. At the close of the season a special report on their working will be submitted to the Government of India, and it may then be a matter for consideration whether it is worth while to maintain a distinction of the kind.

4. Nine emigration agencies were at work during 1877-78, being three more than in the previous year. This increase was due to the opening of agencies

for the three colonies of Jamaica, Grenada, and St. Lucia. The emigration business of these colonies, together with that of Trinidad, was, however, transacted by a single agent, and a similar arrangement was followed during the past year for the colonies of Demerara and Natal. Mauritius, Surinam, and Guadeloupe have separate agents. Thus the work of the nine agencies is, in fact, conducted by five agents, two of whom are members of mercantile firms in Calcutta. The Lieutenant-Governor fears that the supervision of the detailed work of an emigration agency cannot always be properly attended to by gentlemen who are occupied with important business on their own account, and in the event of the emigration to Guadeloupe and Surinam increasing, it may be necessary to recommend that separate and independent agents be appointed.

5. In 1876-77, the number of admissions to depôts was 9,417, while in the past year they rose to 22,544. Nor is this due merely to the opening of the three fresh agencies, and to the resumption of operations by the Surinam agency from which no emigrants were despatched in the previous year. These causes account for only 2,963, or less than one-fourth of the total increase, the balance being due to the greater number of admissions to existing depôts. Thus Demerara recruited 9,688 emigrants against 4,746 in 1876-77, while Mauritius collected 3,044 against 1,274, and Guadeloupe 2,733 against 441.

6. That this conspicuous rise in the number of admissions should have been attended by some enhancement of the death-rate is no more than might have been expected looking to the circumstances under which many of the emigrants were recruited. During 1876-77, 9,417 coolies were received into the depôts. Forty out of the number died, showing a death-rate of 4·20 per thousand. In the past year, 168 emigrants died out of 22,544 admitted, representing a death-rate of 7·40 per thousand. The Protector of Emigrants observes that, comparing the death-rate with the average number of days' detention (25), it appears that the annual rate of mortality was 111 per thousand, and adds that the death-rate in the Mauritius and Guadeloupe depôts amounted on this calculation to the abnormally high figure of 160 per thousand. Apart from certain minor discrepancies in the calculations which need not be noticed here, the Lieutenant-Governor must remark that the argument implied by the Protector's statement is after all somewhat fallacious. It is obvious that the death-rate among intending emigrants during their detention in depôt represents the mortality arising partly from the changed conditions of their life, and partly from the weeding out of the weaker members, to whose "anœmic and ill-fed condition" the Protector has called attention. This initial death-rate can in no way be regarded as an index to the probable mortality during an entire year, and to put forward a death-rate of 111 per thousand, as representing the annual mortality among coolies, while awaiting embarkation, might suggest erroneous conclusions as to the unhealthiness of the depôts. It may, however, be noted that the Mauritius depôt nearly always shows a greater mortality than the other depôts, and the Protector considers this partly due to the fact that its chief recruiting ground is Behar, where the emigrating classes are sickly and anœmic. In the Guadeloupe depôt also a high mortality and a large proportion of Behari emigrants were found to be coincident.

7. The proportion of infant mortality was undoubtedly high. Out of the 168 deaths which occurred in the depôts, 109 or 65 per cent. of the total were those of children, while among adults, there were 59 deaths, being 35 per cent. of the recorded mortality. In the Guadeloupe depôt, the death-rate among infants amounted to 10 per cent. The Protector should make enquiry into the circumstances attending this heavy mortality, and should endeavour to introduce some special precautions against its recurrence. It is not enough to say that the emigrants were Beharis. In the case of infants proper and timely feeding arrangements would probably prevent any great mortality. Cholera and diarrhœa caused the largest number of deaths, and these are the diseases which would most naturally be induced among coolies by the journey from their homes to Calcutta, and their change of food and of habits of life. Small-pox, however, caused 18 of the deaths, and chest affections 21. The Protector points out that, in consequence of medical examination in the districts of recruitment not being compulsory under Act VII of 1871, a large number of coolies on arriving at the depôts are found to be physically unfit to emigrate.

This point will be brought to the notice of the Government of India for consideration in connection with the proposed amendment of the Colonial Emigration Act.

8. Although the average period during which coolies were detained in depôt before emigration fell from 29 days in 1876-77 to 25 days in 1877-78, cases of exceptionally long detention occurred in the depôts of the Jamaica, Guadeloupe, and Surinam agencies. In the two former the detention was due to disease among the emigrants, but the Surinam coolies were detained by the non-arrival of the steamer which had been chartered to convey them.

9. During 1876-77 recruiters' licenses were granted to 306 persons, while in the past year, although the number of intending emigrants more than doubled, the number of licenses granted, was not above 375, being an increase of only 69. It is explained by the Protector that 86 licenses granted at the end of 1876-77 continued in force during the next season, so that in fact 461 licensed recruiters were at work. Although many of these recruiters worked only for a few months of the year, each of them appears to have recruited on an average no less than 48 emigrants. The Protector points out that the recruiters employed in inland emigration, although they work all the year round, obtain an average of only 14 coolies a piece, and suggests the inference that illegal recruitment is more largely resorted to in colonial than in inland emigration. It is by no means clear to the Lieutenant-Governor that this conclusion is correct. There is some reason to believe that the numbers of colonial emigrants are swelled by the transfer to colonial recruiters of coolies already collected in inland depôts, and the question of allowing this is now under the consideration of Government. But excluding this special mode of obtaining emigrants, the Lieutenant-Governor is disposed to think that the comparative paucity of the numbers recruited by the recruiters for the tea districts is sufficiently accounted for by the excessive competition for coolies of the class most sought after, and by the fact that, the districts in which recruitment for inland emigration has hitherto been mainly carried on, are far less thickly peopled than those to which colonial recruiters resort. It is satisfactory to find that the orders requiring sub-agents to take out recruiters' licenses are stated to have produced a good effect, and that greater vigilance has been shown by the registering officers in recruiting districts.

10. Enquiry was made during the year into the truth of a statement that, although the right to a return-passage is unconditionally guaranteed to Indian emigrants in the French colonies by the Convention executed between the French and British Governments in 1861, that right is liable to forfeiture under an earlier local law if the immigrant has undergone criminal or corrective condemnation in the local courts. It was stated by the Governor of Guadeloupe that this provision was still in force, but that in practice no recourse was had to it, and that return-passages were always granted to immigrants who applied for them, whether they had been condemned or not. The Guadeloupe administration, however, expressed their willingness to repeal the obnoxious section. The Lieutenant-Governor certainly thinks that the law must be brought into harmony with the Convention, and the Government of India has been addressed with the view of bringing this about.

11. In 1875-76 the number of emigrants indented for by the colonies who receive emigrants from India was 12,965 statute adults, and the number actually despatched was 7,138½ statute adults or 7,734 persons. In the past year the demand of the colonies rose to 15,036 statute adults, and this was more than complied with by the despatch of 16,092 statute adults, or 18,488 souls. It is observed that the Mauritius demand is stated in the return as 830 males, while 2,034 persons were actually despatched. The Protector furnishes no explanation of this excess in the supply. It would appear moreover from the fact that the number of statute adults corresponds exactly with that of persons, that no children accompanied the 2,034 emigrants who went to Mauritius during the past year. The Protector should report whether this was the case, and generally explain these figures, noting specially what arrangements were made by the Agent to select emigrants who had no children under 10 years old dependent upon them. Out of 18,488 persons who emigrated during the year, 306 were returned emigrants, who in most cases went back to the colony where they had previously served.

12. In reviewing the reports on colonial emigration for the years 1875-76 and 1876-77, the Lieutenant-Governor directed the attention of the Protector to the discrepancies between the number of emigrants registered as shown in the returns furnished by district officers and the number reported by the Emigration Agents as having arrived in Calcutta. A circular was also addressed to Magistrates of recruiting districts in Bengal, and the Government of the North-Western Provinces were requested to issue instructions to officers subordinate to them. It is hoped that these measures will enable the Protector to detect the irregular operations of unscrupulous recruiters in future. The returns of 1877-78 do not show any improvement in this respect. The reports received from the Magistrates during the past year showed that 21,356 emigrants were registered in the districts, while 22,544 were actually admitted into the depôts. There is apparently no evidence to show that the excess number of 1,188 were ever registered at all. According to the reports of the Emigration Agents the numbers recruited in the districts and registered were 23,476, showing that 2,120 persons were unaccounted for by the local officers' returns. The provisions of the law on the subject appear, however, to be sufficient if properly enforced. By section 27 the registering Magistrate is required to furnish every emigrant with a copy of his registration written on substantial paper, while under section 28 a copy of each registration must be sent to the Emigration Agent and the Protector. From the wording of section 27 it is obviously the intention of the law that emigrants should retain with them the copy of their registration which is given to them by the Magistrate, and this condition should be strictly enforced. It may be suggested that coolies cannot be trusted to retain their copies of registration during the journey to Calcutta, but under section 32 all emigrants must be accompanied by a recruiter or an authorized substitute, and these men might take charge of the copies of registration of the emigrants forming their party. They should be instructed under no circumstances to bring emigrants to Calcutta without obtaining copies of their registration, and emigrants who are not provided with copies of their registration under section 27 should not be admitted into a depôt unless the copies required by section 28 have been received, and the emigrants can be identified as the persons therein referred to. It should be understood that, when no intimation of the registration has been sent to the Protector under section 28, the burden of proving that any emigrant was legally recruited must rest upon the agency and its subordinates.

13. The following statement compiled from the Protector's report explains how it was that, although 22,544 emigrants were received into the depôts, only 18,488, or 82 per cent., were actually despatched to the colonies :—

Admitted into depôt	22,544
Rejected as unfit to labour or as dependent on emigrants unfit to labour	1,737
Unwilling to emigrate	155
Claimed by relatives	49
Deserted	1,037
Died	168
Total casualties	3,146

It will be observed that the difference between the number admitted and the number despatched is 4,056, of which 3,146 persons are accounted for by the causes detailed above, while the remaining 910 are described by the Protector as forming an "unrequired surplus at the end of the season." Dr. Richards also remarks that the numbers under this head were rather too numerous in some cases, but that, as the coolies were generally transferred through the Emigration Department to other agencies, no particular hardship resulted to the intending emigrants. This observation is not fully understood. *Primâ facie* it would appear that the transfer of an emigrant to a different agency from that for which he elected before he left his district is likely to be attended with

some hardship to the emigrant, and in any case his choice cannot be exercised so freely in Calcutta as in his native district. The Protector should explain in greater detail what becomes of this unrequired surplus of emigrants, and under what safe-guards the transfers of which he speaks are conducted.

14. It appears from the detailed returns furnished by the Protector that of the 1,737 persons rejected as unfit to labour or as dependent on persons unfit to labour, 977 or 10·10 per cent. of its admissions were rejected by the Demerara Agency, 186 or 6·59 per cent. by Trinidad, and 78 or 15·47 per cent. by Surinam. It is stated moreover that the agents for Demerara and the West Indian Colonies employ medical men to examine intending emigrants in the recruiting districts, and have made every effort to reduce the number of rejections. The Lieutenant-Governor would wish further enquiry to be made into this matter. The agents are said to give liberal allowances to the medical men who conduct the examinations; but it is evident from the large proportion of rejections in Calcutta that the examinations in the districts must have been most cursory and insufficient. Some information as to the class of medical examiners employed and the rate of payment made to them is desirable. In the case of Surinam the very high proportion of rejections is explained by the anxiety of the Dutch Government to obtain thoroughly healthy emigrants, and it must be admitted that the results of this stringent selection appear to have been satisfactory, for the mortality on the voyage and on arrival at Surinam was unusually low. But the Lieutenant-Governor thinks that, if an exceptionally high standard is to be insisted upon, the Surinam agency would do well to secure a more thorough medical examination of the emigrants in the districts where they are recruited. The hardship of bringing down a large number of men from their homes and then rejecting them, to return home worn out and disappointed is very great, and constitutes an abuse which the Protector must bring under control.

15. The proportion of persons who declined to emigrate after admission into depôt was small in all the agencies, except that of Surinam, where it amounted to 3·96 per cent. It is stated in explanation of this that "their number was considerably augmented by a batch of dancing girls and women of a similar description, with their male attendants. These people laughed at the idea of becoming agriculturists." This circumstance seems to indicate that very imperfect supervision was exercised over the recruiting staff of that agency, and it should be considered whether licenses should be granted again to the recruiters who were concerned in this very injudicious selection of intending emigrants. It is also observed that the desertions from the Surinam depôt amounted to 10·59 per cent. of the number admitted. The Agent considers that this was due to an unusually long detention in the depôt (the average period of detention was 47 days) to the prevalence of very high wages in Calcutta, and to an intrigue between some designing coolies and one of the durwans at the depôt. The matter called for special enquiry by the Protector. A practice has recently been detected of entering as deserters the ineffective relatives of coolies who die in hospital, while in fact these people are frightened or driven away from the depôts. Every case of desertion should form the subject of strict investigation. There is reason to believe that the class of men who are usually employed in the offices and as servants at coolie depôts need very close supervision. None of the coolies admitted into the Mauritius depôt declined to emigrate, but on the other hand no less than 344 or 11·24 per cent. deserted. It should be explained by the Agent how it was that not one of the 844 persons who thus practically showed themselves unwilling to emigrate, made any formal application for release from engagement.

16. The rule requiring the shipment of at least forty women for every hundred men was complied with during the year by all the agencies, except those of Mauritius, Demerara, and Guadeloupe. The returns for Mauritius show a deficiency of 3 and those for Natal of 42, which will be made up during the current year. Guadeloupe started with a deficit of 192 and made up only 11; so that 181 women beyond the standard proportion remain to be supplied in the present season. The Protector should see that the Guadeloupe agency carries out the requirements of the rule. It is satisfactory to find that the Demerara agency, which commenced the year with a deficiency of 40, has now embarked the proper proportion.

17. The following statement shows the provinces from which the emigrants despatched to the colonies were recruited during the last two years :—

	1876-77.	1877-78.
North-Western Provinces and Oudh ...	4,279	13,254
Behar	2,446	3,038
Bengal	470	268
Madras, Bombay, &c.	266	1,594
Native States	94	41
Punjab and Dependencies	51	69
Central India	108	197
Orissa	20	18
Total ...	7,734	18,488

It will be observed that the number of persons from the North-Western Provinces and Oudh who emigrated to the colonies was nearly trebled in the past year. As the increase in emigration from Behar was no more than proportioned to the enhanced demand of the colonies and the vigorous recruitment which went on to make up for the deficient supply in 1875-76, it may be concluded, as already remarked, that the distress which prevailed in Oude and in parts of the North-Western Provinces formed a strong inducement to emigration in 1877-78. In Bengal itself the number of emigrants, always small, shows a considerable decrease. As regards emigration from Madras and Bombay, it must obviously be quite exceptional for natives of those Presidencies to emigrate through Calcutta, but even in this case the famine has had its effect in raising the number of these casual emigrants from 266 to 1,594.

18. During 1877-78 no fewer than 37 sailing ships and one steamer left the port of Calcutta with emigrants, against 18 vessels in the previous year. The average number of emigrants conveyed in each ship was 486. Of the 26 vessels for which detailed information is available, the *Botanist* and the *Jorawar* show the highest rate of mortality, 4·62 and 4·56 per cent. respectively. The most successful voyage was made by the steamer *Clive*, which took 324 emigrants to Surinam without a single death. It is not quite clear, however, why the passage should have occupied so long as 77 days. In 1872, the steamer *Enmore* ran from Calcutta to Demerara in 49 days, and it was stated that the distance would have been accomplished even sooner if the vessel had been supplied with good coal, and had not met with headwinds in rounding the Cape of Good Hope. The Lieutenant-Governor would be glad to know if there were any special circumstances which delayed the *Clive*, and whether she was a full-power or an auxiliary steamer. A proposal has recently been made by the Government of Demerara to employ a steamer in the transport of emigrants to that colony, and the Lieutenant-Governor has expressed his opinion as to the class of vessel which should be built. The highest mortality was on a vessel which had been used for carrying salt on the previous voyage and remained damp accordingly. The agents should avoid chartering salt ships for emigrants.

19. As many as 2,544 emigrants returned from the various colonies in 1877-78, bringing with them acknowledged savings in money, amounting to Rs. 4,72,926, or an average of Rs. 185 per head. In addition to this, many of them possessed valuable jewellery. The Emigration Agent for Trinidad has placed on record some remarkable instances of the successes of Indian immigrants in that colony, and forwards an extract from a report by a Moravian Missionary furnishing satisfactory evidence of the material prosperity of immigrants in Demerara. It is curious to note that three Indian coolies run thorough bred horses in the local races, frequently winning prizes to a considerable amount. In the town of San Fernando 22 of the burgesses are men who were originally ordinary Indian coolies, and one of them died lately leaving a fortune of Rs. 1,34,000. On the other hand, among the great mass of the coolies there is said to be much drunkenness, and want of cleanliness, with a tendency to

imitate the lazy habits of the Creole or Negro laborers. The Lieutenant-Governor is also sorry to gather from the Colonial report for 1877, lately received, that in Trinidad the number of Indian children at school is not so great as it should be.

ORDER.—Ordered that a copy of this Resolution be forwarded to the Government of India, Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, and to the Officiating Protector of Emigrants, for information.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

A. MACKENZIE,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

No. 3204.

COPY submitted to the Government of India, in the Department of Revenue, Agriculture, and Commerce, for information.

No. 3205.

COPY forwarded to the Officiating Protector of Emigrants for information and guidance.

By order of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal,

A. MACKENZIE,

Secretary to the Government of Bengal.

CALCUTTA,
The 12th September 1878.

W. H.—Reg. No. 6106—13-9-78.